

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE NORTHWEST INDIANA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I rise to recognize the Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra upon its 75th anniversary. In honor of this momentous occasion, the Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra is hosting a commemorative gala that will feature its signature Holiday Pops concert on Thursday, December 8, 2016 at the Star Plaza Theatre in Merrillville, Indiana.

The Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra humbly originated in 1941 as a vision from cello instructor Arthur Zack, who hailed from Gary, Indiana. Using the Gary Post-Tribune as a means to recruit performers, Zack led twenty-six musicians for the group's first rehearsal. From this foundation, the roster flourished, and the first concert was performed on December 7, 1941, at Seaman Hall of City Methodist Church in Gary. Regrettably, news of the attack on Pearl Harbor was received prior to the start of the performance, which prompted Zack to open the concert with a heart-felt rendition of "The Star-Spangled Banner" on the piano. With reverence to the importance of that decision, the Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra will commence its 75th anniversary concert with the national anthem.

While remaining with the organization for several more years, Zack's perseverance and energy helped shape and establish the group, then known as the Gary Symphony. Over the years, its musicians have delighted audiences with their performances at various churches and schools throughout Northwest Indiana. In 1972, the members reorganized as the Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra and continued to host concerts at area high schools.

The Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra held its first performance at the Star Plaza Theatre in September of 1981, the same venue at which the outstanding musicians performed their first concert in November of 1982. The following year, the Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra branded the Star Plaza Theatre as its home concert hall, although they still remained true to their roots by performing at other local venues in the community, including a series of outdoor concerts.

The Northwest Indiana Symphony is now comprised of the Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra, the Northwest Indiana Symphony Youth Orchestra, the Northwest Indiana Symphony Chorus, and the Women's Association. The Orchestra takes pride in its dedication to encouraging youth to broaden their knowledge and appreciation of music through educational programs.

Since its inception, scores of distinguished and renowned musicians and entertainers from around the world have featured their tal-

ents alongside the orchestra. Well-known names in music, such as Benny Goodman, Dizzy Gillespie, Doc Severinsen and the Tonight Show Band, and Roger Williams, have performed as guest artists over the years.

For the last 75 years, the Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra has entertained and enchanted audiences with their executions of both classical and contemporary music. Their faithful devotion to promoting the arts in Northwest Indiana has provided accessibility to cultural and enriching opportunities for exceptional musical performances to all local residents.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating and celebrating the Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra on its 75th anniversary. Northwest Indiana is grateful and proud to be home to the brilliantly talented members of this organization, and for their outstanding gifts, leadership, and service, these members are worthy of the highest praise.

HONORING GARY A. ROSEMA, OTTAWA COUNTY SHERIFF, ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my friend, Sheriff Gary Rosema, on his retirement from the Ottawa County Sheriff's Office.

After graduating from the FBI National Academy, Gary Rosema began his career in law enforcement in 1973 as a patrol officer for the Coopersville Police Department. One year later, he joined the Ottawa County Sheriff's Department as a deputy and achieved the rank of detective in 1981. In 1993, Gary Rosema was elected to serve as Ottawa County's sheriff.

Sheriff Rosema has dedicated his career to providing the highest quality law enforcement service to the residents and communities in Ottawa County. His relentless work for the community includes serving as chairman of Michigan's Council on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Initiatives and Chair of the Operations Board of Directors for the West Michigan Enforcement Team, which is a multi-jurisdictional drug enforcement task force.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Second District of Michigan, we thank Sheriff Gary Rosema for his 43 years of service to West Michigan and to our nation.

HONORING THE FAIRFIELD AREA HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' SOCCER TEAM

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, today I proudly honor my constituents, the Fairfield Area High School Girls' Soccer team, for earning the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association Class 1A championship. These young women have brought home the first state team sports title in Fairfield's history.

The Green Knights defeated District VII Champion, Shady Side, in a 9–4 victory at Hersheypark Stadium on November 18, 2016. The Green Knights finished the season with a 25–1 record and scored 27 goals in four state playoff games, including two nine-goal performances.

For a team from a small community, the Green Knights had an army of loyal supporters. I extend my congratulations to head coach Phomma Phanhthy, and the school officials, family and friends who supported these young women on this incredible journey.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's Fourth Congressional District, I commend and congratulate the Fairfield Area High School Girls' Soccer team on the hard work and dedication that led to their 2016 State Championship.

HONORING MOTHER IRENE L. GARY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable person, Mrs. Irene L. Gary.

Mrs. Irene L. Gary affectionately known as "Julie" was born on September 5, 1930 in Goodman, Mississippi to the late Ozzie Lloyd and Essie Long. She received her general education from the Georgeville Community. She served as a cook for Holmes Community College which she loved doing for many years. Throughout her career she served in the capacity for other businesses until retirement.

Irene's spiritual life began when she joined Georgeville United Methodist Church in Goodman, Mississippi. She relocated to Lexington, Mississippi where she began to worship at St. John C.M.E. Church under the pastorage of the late Rev. Larry Blackmon. Later in life she joined the Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church under the pastorage of Rev. Edward Charles Pitchford where she served faithfully until her health began to decline. Because of her spirit of serving others, she was chosen by her pastor to be a part of the Mother's Board. She loved her church, her pastor and his family. Irene was a unique individual; you had to

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

know her to understand her and to understand her was to love her.

Irene departed her natural life on August 1, 2016. Her parents, Ozzie Lloyd and Essie Long, her loving sister, Eva Smart, and her niece, Carolyn Smart, all preceded her in death. Fond memories of her will forever remain with her children: Virginia Brown and George Gary; a grandson whom she reared as her own, Donald Gary, all of Lexington, MS; two very dedicated friends Gloria Remus and Ruthie Marshall of Lexington, MS; five grandchildren; eight great grandchildren; three great-great grandchildren; a God granddaughter, Sade Melton; nieces, nephews, cousins, and neighbors whom she loved; family and friends.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Irene L. Gary, for her dedication to the community.

COMMENDING THE 2016 BEST OF BRADDOCK RECIPIENTS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the recipients of the 2016 Best of Braddock Awards, presented by the Braddock District Council of Community Associations. These awards are given annually to deserving individuals, organizations, and companies in the Braddock Magisterial District of Fairfax County, Virginia, who have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to our community. I am pleased to join the Braddock District Council of Community Associations in recognizing the following Recipients of the 2016 Best of Braddock Awards:

CITIZENS OF THE YEAR

Casey McCollum, Olde Forge/Surrey Square Civic Association. For 10 years, Ms. McCollum has worked with A Forever Home Rescue Foundation, providing safe and loving care for foster dogs, including pregnant dogs and those rescued from puppy mills and inhumane conditions. Her dedication and unconditional love for the dogs she fosters helps prepare them for their adoptive families and forever homes.

Glen Erickson-Bell, Chapel Hill Civic Association. Mr. Erickson-Bell is the "Steward of Oak Hill Park." When efforts to engage park personnel were fruitless, he took it upon himself to contact Friends of Accotink Creek for guidance. These efforts led to the formation of the Friends of Oak Hill Park which led efforts to clear the trails and clean up the trash so that residents were able to once again enjoy Oak Hill.

Young Person of the Year: Bonnibel Bishop. Since elementary school, Ms. Bishop has been involved in community service. She has traveled throughout the Commonwealth promoting her anti-bullying platform and participated in events for TAPS (Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors.) She also has donated her time to various events in support of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) including its Children's Hospital.

CLUBS OR ORGANIZATIONS MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE BRADDOCK DISTRICT

Holy Spirit Transportation Ministry. Richard and Maly Chobot formed the Transportation

Ministry at Holy Spirit Church to help those who need rides to medical appointments or procedures. The entirely volunteer group provides a service that makes a difference in the everyday lives of members in the community.

Boy Scout Troop 1965. In the past year, the 40 Scouts of Troop 1965 have collectively completed more than 800 hours of service projects ranging from conservation projects to construction projects throughout the area. The members of Troop 1965 continue to serve those around them and the greater Braddock District.

Staff, Volunteers and Friends of Kings Park Library. With the closure of Pohick Library for renovation, the Kings Park Library has seen an exponential increase in usage. The dedicated staff, volunteers, and friends of Kings Park Library have worked together to meet the increased demand without sacrificing service, making Kings Park one of the most cherished libraries in the county.

Friends of Oak Hill Park. Instead of sitting back and waiting for someone else to solve a community problem, the Friends of Oak Hill Park took matters into their own hands. They united the communities surrounding Oak Hill Park and launched extensive clean-up and restoration projects, transforming it into a welcoming parkland for all to enjoy.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Paula McKinley, Olde Forge/Surrey Square Civic Association. While many celebrate Memorial Day and July 4th with picnics and parades, Ms. McKinley personally purchased more than 800 U.S. flags and oversaw their installation, ensuring that we remember our history and honor those who gave their lives for us all.

Ron Luxenburg, Lake Braddock. The winter of 2015/16 was one for the record books. While most of us were home stranded, waiting for the plows to arrive, Mr. Luxenburg plowed his entire cul-de-sac, as well as his neighbors' driveways and sidewalks without being asked or paid. These efforts truly exhibit Mr. Luxenburg's generosity and passion for serving others.

Don Wallace. Mr. Wallace sits on the board of Food for Others and since 2008, has actively worked to educate the community about the need to donate food for thousands of Northern Virginians who might otherwise go hungry. He has personally organized the collection and transfer of donated food to the Food for Others warehouse. His efforts have resulted in more than 9 tons of food being donated to this worthwhile organization.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating these outstanding individuals and organizations and also in thanking them for their service to our community. Their efforts and leadership have been a great benefit to the Braddock District and are deserving of our highest praise.

HONORING THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HANOVER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, today I offer my sincere thanks and congratulations to the Han-

over Fire Department in Pennsylvania on its 200th Anniversary.

The collective accomplishments of the staff and volunteers of the Hanover Fire Department truly are exceptional. Over the last 200 years, the Department's men and women helped to save countless lives and properties, and have made the Hanover area a safer and better place in which to live and work.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's Fourth Congressional District, I thank and congratulate the Hanover Fire Department on its 200th Anniversary and wish them continued great success and service in the years to come.

RECOGNIZING DEBBIE SHEDDEN

HON. DAVID P. ROE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Debbie Shedden who is the current President of the Tennessee School Boards Association. Debbie has been active at the local, state, and national levels of education for several years. She was named the Tennessee School Board Member of the Year in 2011 and received the Premier Ambassador Award from Tennessee School Boards Association in 2013 and 2014. In 2016 Tennessee Education Commissioner Dr. Candice McQueen reappointed Debbie to the Tennessee Task Force on Student Testing and Assessment. Debbie is also actively involved in the Rogersville Rotary Club and the Interact Club at Cherokee High School.

Debbie has dedicated herself to serving the students and communities of Hawkins County and Tennessee. I am proud to recognize Debbie for her commitment and work to improving education in Tennessee.

RECOGNIZING MRS. MELISSA KEESEE FOR HER SERVICE

HON. DENNIS A. ROSS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great American on her retirement from federal service. Mrs. Melissa L. Keese, Paralegal Specialist, U.S. Special Operations Command Office of the Staff Judge Advocate (SOJA), MacDill AFB, Florida, is retiring after over 37 years of distinguished and dedicated federal service, the last 22 years serving in SOJA.

Mrs. Keese began her journey in federal service as a U.S. Army Civilian clerk with U.S. Southern Command, Republic of Panama. She then became a U.S. Air Force Civilian as secretary, U.S. Readiness Command, MacDill AFB, FL. She is a plank owner in U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) as she transitioned into the standup of the command as a secretary, U.S. Special Operations Command, MacDill AFB, FL. She then traveled to Texas where she was a secretary with Air Education Training Command, Randolph AFB, TX and a secretary with Headquarters, U.S. Air Force Recruiting Service, Randolph AFB, TX. Before returning to MacDill AFB, she became a secretary with the 81st Training Wing